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AYASHIYA

by BANNO Mutsumi

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Ayashiya v1 c2

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Chapter 2: The Case of the Ayashiya Incident

DEMONS!
HELP!
AAHH!
IF IT WERE YOU...
PLEASE...
FOR SURE...
"I...will definitely..."
"I promise..."

"Mother..."

"A faceless demon...!!!"
"A... demon!"

……

IT'S MORNING.
OR RATHER, NOON
Hahaha
You dreamt of that night again?
Too many lines on your forehead.
If you don't let me eat my fill properly, you'll keep having the same dream!!
ぜっぜっぜっぜっぜっぜっ
You should be getting used to it!
Speaking of which, it has almost been half a year since that happened
ぜっぜっぜっぜっぜっぜっ

I'm a shadow!
It won't work.
Hmph...
I HAVE THE SAME DREAM EVERY NIGHT.
AND I HEAR YOUR CURSED WORDS THE MOMENT I WAKE UP.
THE PROBLEM ISN'T ABOUT ME GETTING USED TO YOU, NOR ABOUT YOU EATING YOUR FILL.

!!
Hahahaha. Listen up, kid.
Although, you find this situation annoying...
Did you forget that it's the same for both of us...?!
Well, you do have to work your ass off to hunt for my meals.
After all, this is the only thing you can do now!
GASP...

DAMN DEMON ...!
わいわい
North Area Demon Raid Squad Headquarters "Demon Squad Quarters"

Library
もく
もく
もく
AH!
I FOUND IT.
"THE AYASHIYA INCIDENT" ...!!
Ayashiya Case Records
5 months ago,
THERE WAS A LOT OF PUBLICITY AT THAT TIME
SO EVERYONE IN THE CAPITAL IS FAMILIAR WITH THE NAME...

By the time the squad arrived for extermination, the demon that was supposed to be there was gone.
A draper store "Ayashiya" was attacked by a huge demon.
In just one night, there were about 50 casualties. The most horrifying incident in the capital.
THE SQUAD RECORDS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFOR-MATION.
!? THE RECORDS ENDS HERE.
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
They discovered only one survivor, the son of the storekeeper who was mysteriously unscathed.
In other words, this is an unsolved case...!!
The unknown demon perpetrator of this case has yet to be exterminated.
SOMEHOW, I FEEL LIKE I HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW THAT JIN A LITTLE BETTER.

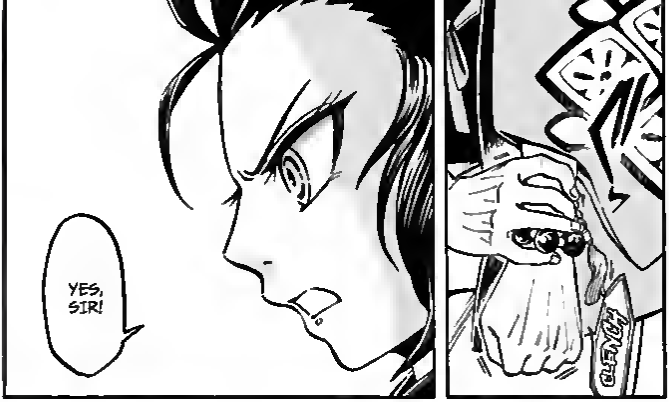
PADDED KIMONO?
AAA-AHHH !!?
I STILL CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND THAT SITUATION.
BUT THAT KID MUST BE...
AH... C-
CAPTAIN KIIRAG!!
ISN'T THAT A PADDED KIMONO?
ISN'T IT A LITTLE TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE WEARING THAT?
HMM. HUH? WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
I-IT'S BECAUSE MY GOOD CLOTHES WERE RUINED BY THE MISSION LAST NIGHT
THESE ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT...
WHEN I STRAYED OFF I TOOK A TUMBLE, AND IT GOT RUINED!!
STUPID
Keep quiet in the library

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SAKI?
EH!?
ERM, WELL ...!
Since there are various books about demon extermination, I was hoping to get some pointers for fighting...
...OH?
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT STUDYING, APPRENTICE.
HERE, SOMETHING SWEET FOR YOU
T-thank you very much.

B-BY THE WAY, CAPTAIN,
WHAT DID YOU NEED ME FOR?
OH.
STUDYING IS IMPORTANT,
BUT THE BEST WAY TO BECOME QUALIFIED IS BY GAINING MORE FIELD EXPERIENCE.

COME ALONG
A DEMON HAS APPEARED AGAIN
URG...
THIS HAPPENED AFTER THE EXTERMINATION LAST NIGHT ENDED?
SEEMS LIKE A NEW DEMON GATE HAS APPEARED...
THE FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE SURE IS HIGH LATELY.
ONLY THE INTESTINES HAVE BEEN DEVOURED COMPLETELY
THE VICTIM IS FROM THE NEXT TOWN SO HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE EVENING CURFEW
HE MUST HAVE WANDERED ABOUT CARELESSLY AT NIGHT WITHOUT A TALISMAN!

1
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS A STRANGE RUMOUR LATELY
A STRANGE RUMOUR...?
TONIGHT, THE 5TH SQUAD AND 6TH SQUAD WILL EXTERMINATE THE DEMON
PLEASE INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PATROLMEN.
DON'T GET LOST TODAY.
GET INTO YOUR HEAD THAT YOU'RE AN APPRENTICE OF THE DEMON RAID SQUAD.
THE DEMON RAID SQUAD EXTERMINATE EVIL DEMONS THAT HARM HUMANS
THAT IS OUR SOLE DUTY...!


YES, SIR!
HANG UP

Between 1 am to 3 am,
Midnight,
The Demon Gate appeared.
A gate that brings demons into the human world...

These gates appear and disappear unexpectedly with different sizes and shapes respectively.
The number of demons that emerge, the appearance and form, their powers and abilities also vary
No one knows what awaits them until they appear...

RELEASE!!!

!?
SWISH
SWISH
GOOD.
NOW, CHASE THE DEMONS DOWN AND MAKE SURE TO KILL THEM ONE BY ONE.
THE SEALS ARE IN PLACE!
DON'T GET LOST, SAKI.
YES, SIR.
IF WE DON'T KILL THE DEMONS THAT EMERGE, THE DEMON GATE WILL STAY OPEN!!

DEMON EXTERMINATION COMMENCE !!!
URG~~~~ DAMN EVEN THOUGH I DID TRAIN PROPERLY FOR THIS.!
PANT
PANT
PANT
I DEFINITELY WON'T GET LOST FOR SURE...!!
IT'S EXHAUSTING TO COME ALONG WITH THE SQUAD OF A SUDDEN UNANTICIPATED BATTLE
OR COULD IT BE SWEET THINGS!? IS THAT THE POWER OF SWEETS, CAPTAIN!?
I'M STILL LACKING IN MANY WAYS!

!!?WAH?!!
PADDED KIMONO?
WHA-
ISN'T IT A LITTLE TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE WEARING THAT?
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO CANDIDLY HERE!?
IF THE SQUAD MEMBERS FIND YOU...
They won't notice us at this distance.
Hmph
You saw us because this kid lost his head last night.
We've been in hiding for almost half a year,
And made sure to prevent any blunders that would alert the Demon Raid Squad about us...!!

More importantly, there's something praiseworthy of you.
You didn't tattle on me.
BAH!
DON'T JOKE ABOUT THAT!! I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU!
I HELPED YOU BECAUSE I WAS INDEBTED TO YOU.
BESIDES...
I... HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU
THINGS THAT I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT...
. ME TOO.
WHY ARE YOU WEARING A PADDED KIMONO?
I WANT TO KNOW WHY WOULD WOMEN MAKE SUCH A CHOICE TO DO SO
YOU STILL WANT TO CONTINUE THAT CONVERSATION!?
THIS IS ALL I HAVE NOW! DAMN YOU!!

TO BEGIN WITH, EVEN YOUR PREVIOUS HAORI WAS SUCH AN APPALLING...
The dye was one messed-up piece of work.
AS EXPECTED OF THE ONLY SON OF A DRAPER! YOU'RE ANNOYING!!
I HAVE TO GET GOING NOW! I'VE STRAYED AWAY FROM THE OTHERS YET AGAIN
LISTEN! WHEN I WAS CHOSEN TO JOIN THE DEMON RAID SQUAD,
I NEVER IMAGINED ANYTHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN!!
JUST SO YOU KNOW,
AS A DEMON RAID SQUAD MEMBER, I WON'T HELP YOU ANYMORE THAN THIS.
HOWEVER, I MIGHT CHANGE MY MIND IF YOU GET IN MY WAY, OKAY?!!
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
!?

...TO FULFIL OUR OWN GOALS.
I WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF THE DEMON EXTERMINATION OFFICIALS
I DON'T INTEND TO EXPOSE THIS APPEARANCE TO ANYONE ELSE.
THIS GUY AND I ARE MERELY TAKING A FEW OF YOUR PREY...

!
ベキ
ベキ
DAMN, IT'S STILL MOVING!!
WHAT? IT'S DOWN TO ITS LAST BREATH!
YOU SURROUND IT FROM OVER TIME!

I won't get to eat at this rate.
What!!? Damn humans using pesky seals!!
A tasty-looking brat standing right before me!!
Let me eat you!!!
NUH!?
SAK!!!
Oh?
EXHALE

どん
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE CHASING AFTER EVERYONE AS AN APPRENTICE ALL THE TIME!
EVEN I HAVE MY REASON FOR CHOOSING THIS PATH.
T/N: IT'S SOME CHANT
嵐!
What?!! This little girl is also...
TAKE THIS!!

GWOOOOH!
OOOOO!!?
HAA
HAA
HAA
WELL DONE SAKI ...!

EXTERMI-
NATING
THE FIRST
ONE
GO
TO
HELL
...!

The demons that emerged from the Demon Gates tonight are all small fries.
It's not enough to sate my hunger.

DON'T ASK FOR TOO MUCH
HUMANS WON'T DIE FROM SKIPPING OUT ON 1 MEAL
AFTER ALL, I'M STILL CONNECTED TO YOU.
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS HUNT DEMONS.
IN EXCHANGE,
YOU WILL LEND ME YOUR POWERS UNTIL THE VERY END.
GEGE-GE GRA-GRAGRA GRA!!!
Jin,
even though you're a mere human brat,
Food...
Intes-tines ...?!
That nature of yours is your only praise-worthy trait.

ANY LEFT?!
THE SEAL IS STILL REACTING.
BUT WE DIDN'T COME ACROSS ANY OTHERS.
It's a compliment.
THAT DOESN'T PLEASE ME AT ALL!
Fools.
ANSWER ME.

Geh ?!
DO YOU KNOW THE FACELESS DEMON?
I...
Don't...
know...

Oh my
just in time
Thanks for the meal!

Ayashiya

♫ Going home after a detour~
♪ Demon Raid Squads are everywhere~ ♪

AH,
YOU'RE BACK.

.....
!?

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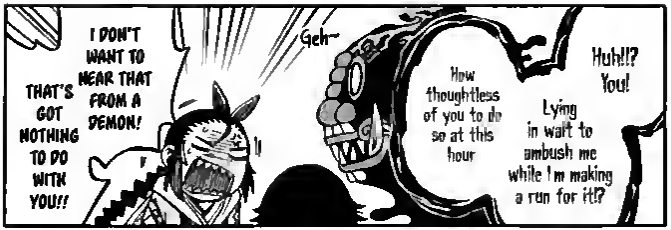

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM A DEMON!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!!
Geh~
How thoughtless of you to do so at this hour
Huh!!? You!
Lying in wait to ambush me while I'm making a run for it!?

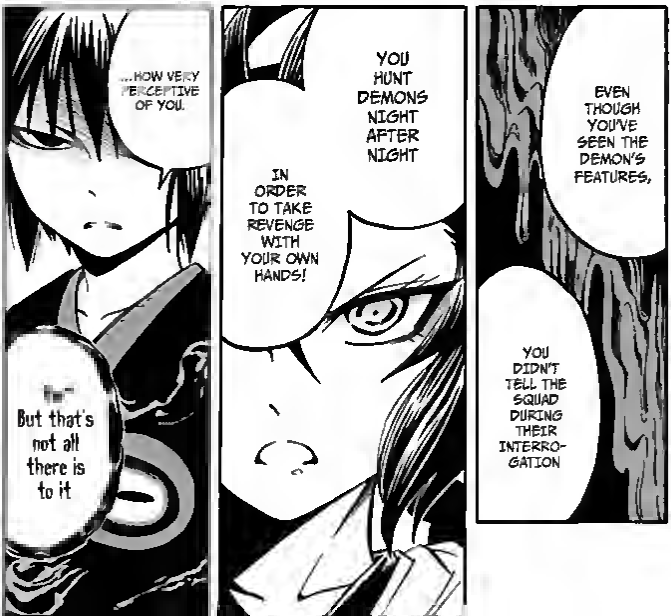
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING
I CAME TO TELL YOU THIS TONIGHT

EVERYONE IS BAFFLED BECAUSE THE DEMON GATES WERE REMOVED EARLIER THAN WE EXPECTED
WELL, SINCE YOU DON'T LEAVE BEHIND THE CORPSES OF DEMONS,
I DON'T THINK THAT IT WILL RAISE ANY ISSUES...

I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH ON IT.
THE CASE OF THE AYASHIYA INCIDENT.

.....
BUT
THERE IS ONE KEY FACT YOU KNOW THAT WAS NOT FOUND IN THE RECORDS.
ALTHOUGH, YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S ALMOST THE SAME AS KNOWING NOTHING
ANY CRUCIAL INFORMATION WAS NOT FOUND IN THE RECORDS.

"The Faceless Demon"


...HOW VERY PERCEPTIVE OF YOU.
But that's not all there is to it
YOU HUNT DEMONS NIGHT AFTER NIGHT
IN ORDER TO TAKE REVENGE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE SEEN THE DEMON'S FEATURES,
YOU DIDN'T TELL THE SQUAD DURING THEIR INTERRO-GATION

SO IF THAT THING DOES NOT HINDER THE DEMON RAID SQUAD,
I PROMISE THAT I WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOU...!
THAT IS SOMETHING I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL...
YOUR FEELINGS OF WANTING TO EXACT REVENGE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS.
BUT..
WHY THANK YOU.
BUT !!
BOTH THE CASE AND YOU TWO ARE STILL FILLED WITH TOO MUCH MYSTERY!!
...ALRIGHT. I PROMISE.
I HATE BEING KEPT IN THE DARK!
WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE DOING SO, I HOPE TO GET SOME ANSWERS SOMEDAY.

I'M GLAD!
THEN IT'S A PROMISE,
YOUNG MASTER!
——"Young master".
...YEAH.
OH...!
I MADE TAIYAKI FOR SUPPER, ANYBODY WANT S——
Filled to the brim with red bean paste
GOOD NIGHT, CAPTAIN

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